

Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00

CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SAM-01 OMB-01

IO-11 OIC-02 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 /115 W

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P R 122004Z MAR 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 750

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1837

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION NATO
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY MADRID

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FOR DALE GOOD, S/IL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ILO, ICFTU, IN

SUBJECT: ICFTU EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MARCH 11-12

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE ILO, INDIA AND SOUTHERN AFRICA WERE THE PRINCIPAL ISSUE DISCUSSED ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE ICFTU EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG. THE BOARD REAFFIRMED THE PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED ICFTU POSITION ON THE ILO, CALLING FOR RENEWAL THROUGH DEPOLITICIZING THE ORGANIZATION AND APPEALING TO THE US TO REMAIN INSIDE THE FOLD. THE BOARD VOTED ITS SUPPORT FOR ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE TO IMPLEMENT UN SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA. A PROPOSAL TO SEND A SPECIAL ICFTU STUDY MISSION TO INDIA TOUCHED OFF AN EXPLOSIVE DEBATE WHICH HAS BEEN CARRIED OVER TO THE MARCH 12 SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. ILO: THE CENTERPIECE OF ICFTU EXECUTIVE BOARD DELIBERATIONS ON THE ILO WAS SECRETARY KISSINGER'S LETTER OF LAST NOVEMBER CONVEYING THE US NOTIFICATION OF INTENTION TO WITHDRAW. THIS LETTER WAS VIEWED WITH CONSIDERABLE FAVOR AND RESULTED IN A REAFFIRMATION OF ICFTU SUPPORT FOR DEPOLITICIZING THE ILO AND RESTORING IT TO THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH IT WAS FOUNDED. THE BOARD ALSO REITERATED ITS APPEAL TO THE US TO REMAIN IN THE ILO AMIDST WARNINGS THAT AMERICAN WITHDRAWAL WOULD INEVITABLY RESULT IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ORGANIZATION'S DESTRUCTION. ACCORDING TO UNITED MINE WORKERS UNION REPRESENTATIVE MONBORNE, THE ONLY AMERICAN ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, THE KISSINGER LETTER WAS REVIEWED POINT BY POINT AND WAS PRAISED BY MANY BOARD MEMBERS AS AN ACCURATE AND FAIR ASSESSMENT OF THE "SORRY STATE OF AFFAIRS" AT THE ILO. MONBORNE TOLD US THAT THERE APPEARED TO BE A GENUINE RESOLVE TO "WORK WITH THE AMERICANS" IN ORDER TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION.

3. SOUTH AFRICA: WE WILL NOT HAVE THE TEXT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD RESOLUTION DEALING WITH THE SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA UNTIL LATER TODAY (MARCH 12), BUT ICFTU AFRICAN REPRESENTATIVE KALEMBO TOLD US THAT THE RESOLUTION SUPPORTS ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE TO IMPLEMENT UN SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA.

4. INDIA: A PROPOSAL TO SEND A SPECIAL ICFTU STUDY MISSION TO INDIA, WHICH WAS CONTAINED IN AN OTHERWISE NEBULOUSLY WORDED SECRETARIAT WORKING PAPER ON INDIA, PRECIPITATED AN ANGRY OUTBURST FROM INTUK LEADER J. C. DIKSHIT WHO DEFENDED THE GHANDI GOVERNMENT AND ACCUSED THE ICFTU OF UNWARRANTED AND UNWANTED MEDDLING. DIKSHIT HAD PREVIOUSLY DISTRIBUTED A PAMPHLET TO ALL BOARD MEMBERS ENTITLED "INTUK SUPPORTS INDIRA GHANDI". ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, DIKSHIT "RANTED AND RAVED" FOR MORE THAN AN HOUR, INFURIATING MANY BOARD MEMBERS, PARTICULARLY WILLIAM KNOW OF NEW ZEALAND WHO RESPONDED WITH A STRONGLY-WORDED DENUNCIATION OF THE GHANDI "DICTATORSHIP" AND ITS ABRIDGEMENT OF TRADE UNION FREEDOMS AS BEING INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE ICFTU.

5. THE HIGHLY-INCENSED DIKSHIT PROCLAIMED THAT IF THE ONLY CHOICE IN INDIA IS BETWEEN ORDER AND DEMOCRACY THEN THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT MUST OPT FOR ORDER BECAUSE "WITHOUT ORDER, DEMOCRACY IS MEANINGLESS". RESPONDING TO CRITICISM ON SANCTIONS AGAINST THE PRESS, HE ASKED "WHAT VALUE HAS A FREE PRESS TO A PEOPLE WHO CANNOT READ?" THE ALREADY HEATED AND PROLONGED DEBATE WAS GIVEN NEW WIND WHEN PHILIPPINE TRADE UNION LEADER OCA CAME TO DIKSHIT'S DEFENSE WITH HIS OWN DEFENSE OF MARTIAL LAW IN THE PHILIPPINES. STRONGLY WORDED ATTACKS ON THE MARCOS GOVERNMENT FOLLOWED FROM SEVERAL BOARD MEMBERS.

6. WHEN ADJOURNMENT FOUND THE INDIAN ISSUE STILL UNRESOLVED, ICFTU PRESIDENT NARAYANAN ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD BE CARRIED OVER AND MADE THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS OF THE MARCH 12 SESSION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE EXECUTIVE BOARD. SPAIN AND LATIN AMERICA ARE ALSO ON THE AGENDA OF TODAY'S MEETING.HINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, LABOR RELATIONS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, LABOR OBJECTIVES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ECBRU02581
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760094-0747
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760368/aaaachnc.tel
Line Count: 156
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SIL
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAR 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <31 MAR 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ICFTU EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MARCH 11-12
TAGS: ELAB, IN, SF, ILO, ICFTU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006